

Texas Crop Weather

Released: May 3, 2004 (3:00 P.M. CDT)
For the week of April 26 - May 2, 2004
TX-CW1804

1-800-626-3142
www.nass.usda.gov/tx

Crop Progress Table - May 2, 2004

Crop	2004	2003	Average 1999-2003
<u>Percent</u>			
Corn			
Planted	80	80	78
Emerged	65	67	64
Cotton			
Planted	23	23	19
Peanuts			
Planted	4	8	9
Rice			
Planted	90	91	92
Emerged	85	76	80
Sorghum			
Planted	53	49	46
Wheat			
Headed	69	63	59
Harvested	0	1	0
Other Field Crops			
Planted			
Soybeans	64	60	56
Sunflowers	21	23	23

Crop Condition Table - May 2, 2004

Item	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor
<u>Percent</u>					
Corn	31	44	20	3	2
Rice	14	74	12	0	0
Sorghum	28	52	14	4	2
Wheat	7	39	33	16	5
Range & Pasture . .	18	37	29	10	6

Agricultural Summary: Throughout the week, isolated showers occurred across different areas of the state. A warming and drying trend briefly followed these showers, allowing producers in some areas to continue with fieldwork and planting. In some of the wettest areas of South and East Texas, saturated fields kept activities from taking place. Later in the week, a cold front brought more storms, accompanied by strong winds and some hail. As much as 5 inches of rain fell in some eastern and southern areas. Coastal Bend areas experienced more flooding as fields were still saturated from rains one week earlier. Some crops were still standing in water. In the Plains, cooler weather decreased soil temperatures, causing many producers to wait before planting. Development of recently planted crops was also affected by the cooler weather. Haying and baling continued in the Plains and other areas where conditions allowed. Alfalfa cutting continued to make progress. Cattle continued to graze wheat pastures not cut for hay or intended for grain. Condition of livestock was good throughout the state as pastures were providing good forage. Stock tanks in many areas were full from recent rains, though some parts of the state still needed more rainfall. Some grasshoppers have been reported in north-central areas.

Field Crops Report

Small Grains: Wheat acreage intended for grain was in fair to good condition across the state. More reports of disease and damage from hail and freeze were noted. In the Plains, more acreage was approaching the heading stage. Some areas could still use a rain to help with the grain filling stage. Some producers continued to cut wheat for hay or silage. In eastern areas, wheat was negatively affected by the rains. Cattle continued to graze on small grains. Acreage in southern areas was nearing maturity and harvest. Statewide, wheat condition was rated at 67 percent of normal compared with 49 percent last year.

Corn: Planted corn in the Plains was experiencing slow emergence. In some central areas, some yellowing was occurring from too much moisture. Side dressing was underway. Despite some adverse conditions, most of the planted corn acreage made good progress with many areas having excellent looking stands. Some acreage was being treated for weeds. Statewide, corn condition was rated at 87 percent of normal compared with 75 percent last year.

Cotton: Many Producers in the Plains were still waiting for soil temperatures to improve before planting. Planting was expected to begin in earnest the first week of May. In other areas, planting was expected to resume as conditions allow. Planted areas receiving moisture allowed stands to break through softer ground. Some fields in coastal areas were still underwater from heavy rains.

Sorghum: Sorghum fields were making good progress in most areas, except for areas where flooding has caused problems. Planted sorghum in the Rio Grande Valley was beginning to head and was making excellent progress. Statewide, sorghum condition was rated at 87 percent of normal compared with 79 percent last year.

Peanuts: Peanut planting was expected to gain momentum in the next few days in areas of the Southern Plains.

Rice: Producers were waiting for conditions to improve to finish planting. Statewide, rice condition was rated at 89 percent of normal compared with 86 percent last year.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

Pecans: Zinc application continued and casebearer moth scouting was taking place as egg laying is expected soon. Most of the Pecan acreage was seeing the benefit of ample rainfall across the state.

In the **Rio Grande Valley**, onions were seeing some disease problems and some fields were threatened by standing water. Harvest continued for onions, citrus, sugarcane, cabbage and carrots. Melon harvest preparations continued, but were delayed by rains.

In the **San Antonio-Winter Garden**, Watermelons were in excellent condition. Onion harvest was approaching and cabbage harvest continued.

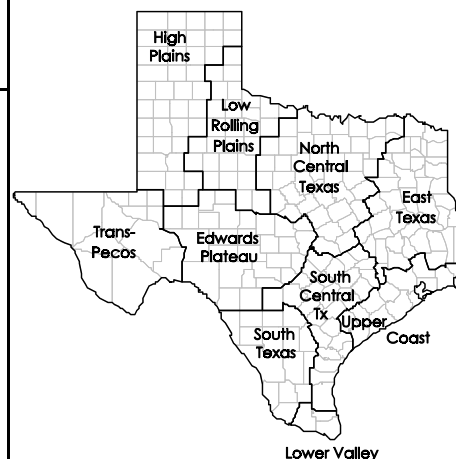
In the **Trans-Pecos region**, conditions were good for developing onions, melons and pecans. Chile fields were all planted.

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Pastures continued to do well from rains across the state. Livestock remain in good condition as supplemental feeding was at a minimum. In the Plains area, more rainfall could benefit rangeland and pastures. Cattle conditions seem to be on the rise in most areas. In East Texas, cattle were treated for flies. Foaling and breeding of horses was underway. Spring calving continued, and working of cattle and branding was still active. Stock pond levels continued to improve with rainfall received during the week.

Weather Information Table ¹

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions	Previous week (Apr 26 - May 2) Accumulation	Month-to-date (Apr 1 - 30) Accumulation	Year-to-date (Jan 1 - May 2) Accumulation	1961-90 Annual Normal	Previous three months (Feb - Apr) Percent of Normal
High Plains	0.03	2.55	6.69	18.87	213
Low Rolling Plains	0.16	2.49	8.65	23.78	168
North Central Texas	1.02	4.12	11.53	34.00	119
East Texas	2.53	4.62	17.38	45.69	113
Trans Pecos	0.21	2.17	5.22	12.96	337
Edwards Plateau	0.86	3.91	8.90	24.01	163
South Central Texas	1.15	3.75	10.33	34.48	113
Upper Coast	2.22	3.83	17.58	47.63	128
South Texas	0.82	3.04	7.22	23.49	152
Lower Valley	0.74	3.59	8.21	25.34	197



¹ Average of all stations reporting precipitation data.

Top Soil Moisture by District - May 2, 2004 *

Condition	1-N	1-S	2-N	2-S	3	4	5-N	5-S	6	7	8-N	8-S	9	10-N	10-S
	Percent of Acreage														
Very Short	0	8	5	0	4	3	0	1	22	17	0	0	0	2	0
Short	33	21	18	12	10	11	4	7	38	22	13	0	0	5	10
Adequate	60	71	70	81	71	55	85	62	40	54	63	28	63	90	65
Surplus	7	0	7	7	15	31	11	30	0	7	24	72	37	3	25

* High Plains: 1-N, 1-S; Low Rolling Plains: 2-N, 2-S; North Central Plains: 3, 4; East Texas: 5-N, 5-S. Trans-Pecos: 6; Edwards Plateau: 7; South Central Texas: 8-N, 8-S; Upper Coast: 9; South Texas: 10-N; Lower Valley: 10-S.

Cooperating Agencies:

Texas Agricultural Extension Service, Texas Department of Agriculture, National Weather Service.

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Texas Crop Weather (USPS 396-770) is published weekly by the Texas Agricultural Statistics Service, 300 E. 8th St., Austin, TX 78701, (512) 916-5581.
PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID at Austin, TX.
POSTMASTER: Send change of address to Texas

Penalty for Private Use, \$300

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